

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cube comprising:
 - an uncoated prism;
 - a coated prism coupled to said uncoated prism, the coated prism including,
 - a first coating section having a multi-layered coating, and
 - a second coating section formed on top of said first coating section, said second coating section having a contact layer coating.
2. The cube of claim 1, wherein said contact layer coating is a SiO₂ coating.
3. The cube of claim 1, wherein said contact layer coating is a fused silica coating.
4. The cube of claim 1, wherein the cube is a polarizing cube.
5. The cube of claim 1, wherein the cube is a beam splitter.
6. An optical device comprising:
 - an uncoated optical element;
 - a coated optical element coupled to a surface of said uncoated optical element, the coated optical element including,
 - a multi-layered coating formed on said surface, and
 - a contact layer coating formed on said multi-layered coating.
7. The device of claim 6, wherein said contact layer coating is a SiO₂ coating.

8. The device of claim 6, wherein said contact layer coating is a fused silica coating.
9. The device of claim 6, wherein said uncoated and said coated optical elements are prisms.
10. The device of claim 6, wherein said uncoated optical element and said coated optical element are coupled together to form a polarizing cube.
11. The device of claim 6, wherein said uncoated optical element and said coated optical element are coupled together to form a beam splitter.